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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/029,087	12/20/2001	Alan B. Shuey	010071	443407

9961 7590 12/23/2002
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[REDACTED] EXAMINER

RODRIGUEZ, RUTH C

[REDACTED] ART UNIT

[REDACTED] PAPER NUMBER

3677

DATE MAILED: 12/23/2002

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/029,087	SHUEY, ALAN B.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Ruth C. Rodriguez	3677

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

**A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM
 THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.**

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 December 2001.
 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are pending in the application.
 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
 6) Claim(s) 1-18 is/are rejected.
 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
 10) The drawing(s) filed on 21 February 2002 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
 If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
 12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
 * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
 14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
 a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
 15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) 4 . | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

1. The information disclosure statement filed 15 March 2002 has been considered for this Office Action.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: Page 4, paragraph 17, line 6, --to-- should be inserted between "effort" and "withdraw". Correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claims 14-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 14 recites the limitation "said body" in the sixth line. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

5. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless -

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

6. Claims 1, 4 and 6 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Knoche (US 1,165,785).

A releaseable cable grip comprising a housing (1,4), wedge means (7) and a release lever (9). The housing has a bore (2) to receive the cable (Figs. 1, 2 and 6). The wedge means is positioned within the housing and spring-loaded to bias the wedge means against the cable within the bore to wedge the cable against the bore and grip the cable (Figs. 1, 2 and 6). The lever is fixed to the wedge means and extends through a slot (6) in the housing whereby the lever may be utilized to move the wedge means away from the cable to release the cable and permit movement of the cable relative to the bore (P. 1, L. 12-20 and Figs. 1, 2 and 6).

Knoche discloses that the housing has two bores to receive cable segments and each of the bores has the wedge means and the release lever extending through slots in the housing (Figs. 1, 2 and 6).

The wedge means disclosed by Knoche are positioned in the central portion of the housing and are spring biased away from each other to force the cable segments outwardly away from each other (Figs. 1, 2 and 6).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

7. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the

invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

8. Claims 1, 2 and 4-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Facey et al. (US 6,003,210) in view of Pasbrig (US 4,889,320).

Facey discloses a releasable cable grip (23) for locking a cable (20) within a housing (27). The cable grip comprises a housing (27) and a wedge means (25A,25B). the housing has a bore (24A,24B) to receive the cable (Figs. 2, 5-8, 15 and 16). Wedge means is positioned within the housing and spring-loaded (31A,31B) to bias the wedge means against the cable within the bore to wedge the cable against the bore and gripping the cable (C. 3, L. 13-24). Facey utilizes a tool (35) to free the cable. Facey fails to disclose using a release lever to release the cable grip. However, Pasbrig teaches a releaseable cable grip comprising a housing (1), a roller means (5) and a release lever (6,9,10). The housing has a bore (14) therethrough to receive the cable (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). The roller means is positioned within the housing and spring-loaded (4) to bias the roller means against the cable within the bore to wedge the cable against the bore and thereby grip the cable (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). The release lever is fixed to the roller means and extends through the housing whereby the lever may be utilized to move the roller means away from the cable to release the cable and permit movement of the cable relative to the bore (C. 2, L. 7-16 and Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). The release of the cable is simplified because the release lever transmits the unclamping force directly to the roller means (C. 2, L. 11-13). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a release lever according to the teaching of Pasbrig in the cable grip of Facey. Doing so, will facilitate

the release of the cable because the release force will be directly applied to the release lever in order to move the wedge means against the bias of the spring.

Pasbrig also teaches that the roller means has a release lever extending outwardly from each side of the roller means through respective slots in opposite sides of the housing (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b).

The cable grip resulting from the combination of Facey and Pasbrig will provide a housing having two bores (24A,24B) to receive cable segments and each of the bore has a wedge means and a release lever extends through slots in the housing according to the teachings of Pasbrig.

The wedge means disclosed by Facey are positioned in the central portion of the housing and are spring biased away from each other to force the cable segments outwardly away from each other (C. 1, L. 8-20).

A releasable cable grip connector (23) for a cable (20) comprises a body (27), a channel and a wedge means. The body has through passage means (24A,24B) adapted to receive a pair of oppositely directed cable end segments (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). The channel within the body is disposed to one side of the one of the through passages means and acutely inclined to and, at its inner end, breaking into the through passage means (Fig. 8). The wedge means within the channel is adapted upon attempted withdrawal of the cable end segment from the through passage means to urge the cable end segment forcibly against the through passage means and thus secures the cable end segment firmly in the releasable cable grip connector (C. 1, L. 8-20). Facey utilizes a tool (35) to free the cable. Facey fails to disclose using a release lever extending through a slot in the body to release the cable grip. However, Pasbrig teaches a releasable cable grip comprising a

body (1), a channel, roller means (5), a slot (27) and a release lever (6,9,10). The body has a slot that extends parallel to the channel and communication with the channel (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). The release lever is fixed to the roller means and extends through the slot to the outside of the body whereby the release lever may be utilized to move the roller means away from the cable end segment to release the cable end segment and permit movement of the cable end segment relative to the through passage means (C. 2, L. 7-16 and Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have a release lever according to the teaching of Pasbrig in the cable grip of Facey. Doing so as mentioned above, will facilitate the release of the cable because the release force will be directly applied to the release lever in order to move the wedge means against the bias of the spring.

The cable grip resulting from the combination of Facey and Pasbrig will provide a body having two channels, one of the channels breaking into each through passage means with a wedge means in each of the channels and each of the wedge means having a release lever extends through slots in opposite sides of the body according to the teachings of Pasbrig.

Facey also discloses that the channels and the wedge means are positioned in the central portion of the body and the wedge means force the cable end outwardly away from each other (C. 2, L. 7-16 and Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b).

A releasable cable grip connector (23) locks a cable segment (20) within a housing. The cable grip connector comprises a housing (27), a channel and a wedge means. The housing has a first bore therethrough (24A) to receive a first cable segment

and a second bore therethrough parallel to the to the first bore to receive a second cable segment (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). The channel within the body is disposed to one side of the first bore an acutely inclined to and, at its inner end, breaking into the first bore (Fig. 8). The wedge means within the housing in the channel and spring-loaded to bias the wedge means against the cable segment within the first bore to wedge the cable segment against the first bore and thereby grip the cable segment (C. 1, L. 8-20). Facey utilizes a tool (35) to free the cable. Facey fails to disclose using a release lever extending through a slot in the body to release the cable grip. However, Pasbrig teaches a releasable cable grip comprising a housing (1), a channel, roller means (5), a slot (27) and a release lever (6,9,10). The housing has a slot that extends parallel to the channel and communicates with the channel (Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). The release lever is fixed to the roller means and extends through the slot to the outside of the housing whereby the release lever may be utilized to move the roller means away from the cable segment and permit movement of the cable segment relative to the first bore (C. 2, L. 7-16 and Figs. 1a, 2a, 2b and 3-8b). Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have a release lever according to the teaching of Pasbrig in the cable grip of Facey. Doing so as mentioned above, will facilitate the release of the cable because the release force will be directly applied to the release lever in order to move the wedge means against the bias of the spring.

The cable grip resulting from the combination of Facey and Pasbrig will provide a housing having a second channel disposed to one side of the second bore and acutely inclined to and, at its inner end, breaking into the second bore with a second wedge means (Fig. 8) having a release lever extends through a second slot in the housing parallel

to the second channel and communicating therewith according to the teachings of Pasbrig.

9. Claim 3 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Facey in view of Pasbrig as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Natkins (US 6,131,969).

The combination of Facey and Pasbrig result in a cable grip connector comprising two bore where each of the bores has a wedge means within each of the bores. However, Natkins demonstrates a cable grip (11) locking a cable (12) within a housing. The cable grip comprises two bore (13,15) receiving the cable. A wedge means (20) positioned within the housing and spring-loaded (17) to bias the wedge means against the cable within the bore to wedge the cable against the bore (15) and thereby grip the cable (Figs. 3 and 5). The other bore (13) does not have a wedge means (Fig. 3). As a result, Natkins demonstrates that the use of housing as a cable grip where the housing has two bores to receive cable segments but only one of the bore has wedge means is known in the art. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of applicant's invention to have a cable grip with two bore where only one bore has a wedge as demonstrated by Natkins in the releaseable cable grip disclosed by Facey and modified by Pasbrig because Natkins demonstrates that a cable grip can have two bore where one bore of the bore has a wedge means.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Knoche (US 1,165,785), Pasbrig (US 3,628,221 and US 4,889,320), Moransais (US 3,709,071), Wagner (US 3,939,594), European Patent Document EP 0 013 693 A1, Swiss Patent Document 634 249 A5 and British Patent Document GB 2 210 517 A are cited to show state of the art with respect to releasable cable grips having some of the features of the current application.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth C Rodriguez whose telephone number is (703) 308-1881. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 07:15 - 15:45.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, J. J. Swann can be reached on (703) 306-4115.

Submissions of your responses by facsimile transmission are encouraged. Technology center 3600's facsimile number for before final communications is (703) 872-9326. Technology center 3600's facsimile number for after final communications is (703) 872-9327. Recognizing the fact that reducing cycle time in the processing and examination of patent applications will effectively increase the patent's term, it is to your benefit to submit responses by facsimile transmission whenever permissible. Such submission will place the response directly in our examining group's hands and will eliminate Post Office processing and delivery time as well as PTO's mailroom processing and delivery time. For a complete list of correspondence **not** permitted by facsimile transmission, see MPEP § 502.01. In general, most responses and/or amendments not requiring a fee, as well as those requiring a fee but charging such fee to a deposit account, can be submitted by facsimile transmission. Responses requiring a fee that the applicant

is paying by check **should not** be submitted by facsimile transmission separately from the check.

Responses submitted by facsimile transmission should include a Certificate of Transmission (MPEP § 512). The following is an example of the format the certification might take:

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(Typed or printed name of person signing this certificate)

(Signature)

If your response is submitted by facsimile transmission, you are hereby reminded that the original should be retained as evidence of authenticity (37 CFR 1.4 and MPEP § 502.02). Please do not separately mail the original or another copy unless required by the Patent and Trademark Office. Submission of the original response or a follow-up copy of the response has been transmitted by facsimile will cause further unnecessary delays in the processing of your application, duplicate responses where fees are charged to a deposit account may result in those fees being charged twice.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-1113.

Ruth C. Rodriguez
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 3677

RCR
rcr
December 16, 2002

J.J. Swann
J. J. SWANN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
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